

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 11 is currently being canceled.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are currently being amended.

Claims 13-21 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-10 and 12-21 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because the reference character "16" has been used to designate two separate things in Figure 4. By way of this amendment and reply, Figure 4 has been amended in order to change the second reference character "16" to "20".

In the Office Action, claims 1, 10, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, due to the use of the phrase "or the like" in those claims. These claims have been amended to remove the offending phrase.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,107 to Toda; and claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,568,281 to Kochis. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, different types of printing conditions (e.g., number of pages, single-sided/double-sided copying,

cover/no cover) can be set in advance for printing a document. Thus, if a document is to be output under pre-set printing conditions, then, the output can be completed by a single operation. Thus, the time and labor to input the printing conditions can be saved.

Turning now to the cited art of record, Toda describes optimizing the outputting job by outputting a single document using different copying machines having different functions and with the different copying machines being connected to each other. Toda does not disclose or suggest a structural element corresponding to the claimed "input means" or the claimed "document division process means" for dividing the electronic document by a single operation, as recited in presently pending independent claim 1.

Column 14, lines 53-67 of Toda describes a job allocation scheme in which a copy job or jobs are allocated to different copying machines on a network, whereby this feature is clearly much different from the claimed invention (according to claim 1) that is directed to dividing a read electronic document by a single operation and for temporarily storing the divided electronic document.

In particular, the claimed input section of claim 1 inputs a condition for dividing a read electronic document and reconstructs the electronic document, whereby the input section also inputs document registration information. Also, the claimed division process means divides the electronic document read by a single operation on the basis of the condition input by the input means. None of these features is disclosed or suggested by Toda, or by Kochis et al.

Toda's input section merely allows an operator to enter one of a plurality of copying modes for a copying machine, whereby none of Toda's modes corresponds to an electronic document dividing mode. For example, column 9, lines 66-67 of Toda merely describes a double-side copy operation that allows double-sided copying of a document, which has nothing at all to do with dividing an electronic document into multiple electronic documents.

Presently pending independent claim 10 recites a division set information input/output means for setting a condition for dividing a scan document and reconstructing a document, and claim 10 also recites a division set process means for storing the condition set by an operator through the division set information input/output means into a division set information database, whereby the document is divided on the basis of the condition preset through the division set information input/output means and stored in the division set information database. None of these features is disclosed or suggested by Toda or by Kochis et al.

The presently pending dependent claims are patentable due to their respective dependencies on one of the presently pending independent claims discussed above, as well as for the specific features recited in these dependent claims. For example, claim 9 recites that the document registration is executed to a plurality of document management systems based on information stored in a buffer, whereby the cited art of record does not teach or suggest these features.

New claims 13-21 have been added to recite the invention from a slightly different perspective, whereby these claims are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. For example, new claim 21 recites that a plurality of separate and distinct electronic documents are stored in the buffer, whereby Toda merely describes different ways of copying a document and for sending that document to one of a plurality of printers on a network.

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17,

or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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Title: DOCUMENT PROCESS SYSTEM

Inventor(s): Nobuhisa YODA et al.

Appl. No.: 09/641,335



FIG. 3

ITEM	VALUE
RESOLUTION	600dpi
SCAN TYPE	ADF DOUBLE SIDE
SHEET SIZE	A4
SCAN SIZE	PHOTO
DIRECTION OF DOCUMENT	LANDSCAPE

ITEM	VALUE 1	VALUE 2
16 DOCUMENT PROCESS	DIVIDE	
17 DOCUMENT PROCESS UNIT	1 DOCUMENT FOR 4 PAGES	
18 EXCESS DOCUMENT PROCESS	REGISTER AS ONE DOCUMENT	
19 REGISTER PROCESS	DIVISION-REGISTER	
20-16 REGISTRATION DESTINATION 1:CONDITION	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM A	SHEET SIZE:A4
REGISTRATION DESTINATION 2:CONDITION	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM B	SHEET SIZE:B4
REGISTRATION DESTINATION 3:CONDITION	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM C	SHEET SIZE:OTHER THAN A4 & B5

FIG. 4

SCAN ID	DOCUMENT ID	STATE	REGISTRATION DESTINATION
1	1	WAIT FOR REGISTRATION	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM A
1	2	WAIT FOR REGISTRATION	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM A
2	3	WAIT FOR REGISTRATION	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM A
2	4	WAIT FOR REGISTRATION	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM B
2	5	WAIT FOR REGISTRATION	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM C
3	6	COUPLING	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM A
:	:	:	:

FIG. 5A

SCAN ID	DATA
1	(DOCUMENT DATA)
2	:
3	:
4	:
5	:
:	:

FIG. 5B